

29 Charlotte Terrace, Barnsbury Road
Islington, July 24th 1851

Dear Madam.

Before this reaches you, you will probably have learned from the Daily papers the fact that Mr. Thompson passed through his first ordeal with his Constituency successfully. I fear however you are likely from that source to learn little more than the bare result, the spirit of the meeting will not be fairly described. At the very outset ~~of the meeting~~ there were strong symptoms of dissatisfaction and opposition, which ultimately displayed themselves in the shape of a hostile amendment. A resolution was moved approving of Mr. Thompson's past proceedings, and pledging the meeting to his future support in the Tower Hamlets. An amendment was proposed declaring Mr. Thompson an unfit and improper person to represent the borough. The speech which Mr. Thompson had prepared, as is the case with him upon all occasions of unexpected opposition, went to the winds. He rose an intellectual giant, clad in the most invulnerable armour

which a man can be arrayed in, the moral greatness of the cause in which he had been engaged, and for the advocacy of which he was then publicly arraigned. His speech was short, but one of the most manly, eloquent and effective I ever heard even him deliver. I will take care you shall have an opportunity of reading it, if not on this side of the Atlantic, in the columns of the Liberator. There was no cringing before the democratic power here any more than there was before the slave power in America. He stood before his constituents, but not cowed in hand. While paying them all due courtesy he never forgot his own self-respect. He rapidly sketched his own career as an Anti Slavery advocate, describing his visit to America in 1835, the reasons which led to his second visit in 1850, the circumstances which attended that visit, his being compelled to vindicate the right of free speech, his successful assertion of that right, the result of his mission on both sides of the Atlantic, his repudiation of all narrow or sectarian views in the advocacy of the cause of liberty, his hope that their own feelings were corresponded with his in reference to American slavery, but whether

that were or not, and whatever might be the
verdict they pronounced upon that occasion, he
announced his firm determination never to abandon
the sacred cause of negro emancipation, with
which his name is so intimately identified. If their
decision was hostile he would retire from
the representation of the Towner Hamlets, but
he should do so with the proud satisfaction
that in that which they had condemned him
he had done his duty in a great and glorious
contest. The effect was irresistible: the audience
nearly 3.000 in number were almost mad
with enthusiasm. Not a single hand, not
even those of the mover and seconder, ~~were~~
held up for the amendment, and the original
motion was carried with only one dissentient.
The speeches were decidedly and strongly anti-
slavery. The Towner Hamlets may now be
considered formally and emphatically to have
condemned American Slavery, not only before
the American visitors to England, but in the
presence of the representatives of the whole
world.

There was an amusing episode during the

proceedings. One of the speakers was referring
to the fact that M^r. Thompson was never paid
for his services. This was pronounced by a
man upon the platform to be false. The
enraged auditory seized the culprit and dragged
him to the front of the platform, where he
was compelled to explain that he had heard
somebody say that M^r. Thompson was paid,
and finally he apologized for his interruption.

To night another meeting is to be held at
the Edinburgh Castle, Rhodennell Road,
Limehouse, ~~this evening~~

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours most truly

J. L. Lamer

M^{rs}. Chapman.